

STATE SENATOR • MARK SCHAUER • 19TH DISTRICT

Schauer Press Release



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SCHAUER HONORS NASCAR STAR RYAN NEWMAN AT CAPITOL

\$18.5 Million in MDOT Projects to Increase MIS Access Announced

LANSING--State Senator Mark Schauer (D-Battle Creek) today honored NASCAR driver Ryan Newman at a ceremony at the Capitol with a resolution declaring June 6, 2006, Ryan Newman Day. In early June of last year Newman set the NEXTEL Cup qualifying record at the Michigan International Speedway (MIS) in Jackson.

"Michigan is the auto capitol of the world," said Schauer. "Ryan's accomplishments at MIS really bring home the excitement of racing, which pumps money into local businesses."

MIS has a substantial impact on Michigan's economy. Prior to the 2005 season, MIS completed the largest capital renovation in its history, supporting the construction industry and its workers in a significant way. Additionally, race weekends bring in tourists from all 50 states and about 13 foreign countries; approximately half of MIS ticket holders come from out-of-state. Most importantly, up to 6000 workers are employed during race weekends with almost 100 permanent local jobs.

"We appreciate this recognition of Michigan International Speedway, NASCAR, and Ryan Newman, especially as it relates to our position in the backyard of the auto industry," said Brett Shelton, president MIS. "MIS has grown substantially over the past few years in large part due to economic development initiatives championed by Sen. Schauer and his colleagues."

At a ceremony earlier in the day, Schauer and Governor Jennifer M. Granholm announced \$18.5 million to be spent over the next three years for road projects to improve safety and access to Michigan International Speedway. Construction will begin as early as fall 2006 on accelerated projects along US-127 and US-12; funding comes from a combination of federal safety dollars and transportation and economic development funding. The projects are expected to create more than 60 new jobs.

Newman has shown a tremendous commitment to education, community, and charitable causes. In January 2005, Newman and his wife Krissie created the Ryan Newman Foundation. The Foundation is currently building an endowment to provide scholarships to students who pursue their college educations while continuing their involvement in auto racing. The organization also works to help nonprofit organizations in the preservation and conservation of wildlife and the environment, encouraging the well-being of pets, and facilitating collaboration between humane societies, animal rescue groups, and animal control agencies.

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Mark Schauer is the Senate Democratic Floor Leader. He represents the 19th Senate District, which includes all of Calhoun County and most of Jackson County.